MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (c) In July, 1992, a complaint was received by Government regarding harassment of a Field Officer of Gurgaon Gramin Bank belonging to Scheduled Caste. This matter was enquired in to by the Sponsor Bank. The enquiry of the Sponsor Bank did not reveal any instance of harassment or bias on the basis of caste. Sponsor Bank has reported that it received another complaint from some SC/ST employees of the Bank alleging harassment and discrimination to them in the matter of transfers and postings. The Sponsor Bank has reported after inquiry that no discriminatory attitude was shown to the employees in such matters.

NABARD enquiry into complaints against Gurgaon Gramin Bank

2593. SHRI ASHIS SEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are reports of complaints of corruption against the present Chairman and General Manager of Gurgaon Gramin Bank (Haryana) including a payment of Rs. 50,000 to the Chairman through the account of a client of TAURU Branch where benami deposits of about rupees 50 lakhs were routed through at the behest of the Chairman; and

(b) whether any enquiry was conducted in this regard by NABARD; if so; what are the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b) Complaints were received against the then Chairman of Gurgaon Gramin Bank (Haryana) including certain transactions at Tauru branch and the matter was enquired into by the Sponsor Bank and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). Now the matter has been referred to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a fresh inquiry. The Chairman referred to above of the Gurgaon Gramin Bank has since been reverted to its Sponsor Bank.

Furniture purchased by settlement Commissioner

2594. PROF. I. G. SANADI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what were the items of furniture purchased by Settlement Commission (IT&WT), Department of Revenue, Lok Nayak Bhavan, New Delhi after issue of instructions wherein Department of Revenue, imposed restrictions to purchase furniture during 1992-93;

(b) what are the reasons that Secretary of the said Commission sought special permission of Department of Revenue under the title "furniture items were required for use in office" whereas the furniture items were directly delivered at the residence of Chairman of the Commission;

(c) what action Government propost to take against such officials of the Commission who are responsible for obtaining special permission for making such purchases on false grounds; and

(d) what were the circumstances in which an additional item of furniture was also accepted from supplier for which neither any demand was made nor the bill has been paid by the Commission to the supplier?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) During the

year 1992-93, Settlement Commission (Income-tax) purchased only one table and four chairs in replacement of the condemned furniture after obtaining necessary relaxation of the restrictions imposed in this regard. One table and three chairs were provided at the residence of the former Chairperson of the Commission as admissible under extent Government instructions on the subject to enable her to perform official duties from there.

(d) No additional item of furniture has been accepted from any supplier.

Negotiations with Asian Development Bank

2595. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SMT. VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJANIRANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have had negotiations with the Asian Development Bank for securing loan for the current year 1993-94;

(b) if so, with what success, indicating the extent and terms of the aid agreed upon; and

(c) whether the terms agreed upon are likely to adversely affect the performance of public sector banks; if so, in what manner and to what extent?

THE MINSTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b) The Asian Development Bank and agreed to provide loans from its Ordinary Capital Resources to the extent of about US $ One billion during the calendar year 1993. These loans normally carry a grace period of 5 years, repayment in 25 years and the variable lending rate of interest which is currently 6.64% per annum.

(c) No, Sir.

Functioning of CEGAT

2596. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that recently the Supreme Court of India highlighted the mal-functioning of the Customs, Excise and Gold Control Appellate Tribunal functioning in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what remedial action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) In pursuance of a Supreme Court judgement dated 14-5-93, based on articles appearing in the Excise Law Times about the functioning of CEGAT, the Government have constituted a high level Team to go into the alegations and suggest measures to improve the functioning of the Tribunal. Meanwhile, steps have been initiated to fill in the vacant posts, provide supporting facilities and to tone up the working of the Tribunal.

Steps to check tax evasion

2597. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced any system to check whether the Central Excise and Sales Tax have been opened on those goods transported by the Railways;

(b) if not, what is the revenue loss per year on this account; and